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Follow-up on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and on Assembly resolution 53/115

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in June 1998, including the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/132 of 17 December 1999, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem".

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I. Introduction

1. At its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, the General Assembly adopted a Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2, annex), the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution S-20/3, annex), and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem (resolution S-20/4), including the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (resolution S-20/4 A), the measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (resolution S-20/4 B), the measures to promote judicial cooperation (resolution S-20/4 C), the measures to combat money-laundering (S-20/4 D) and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (resolution S-20/4 E).

2. In its resolution 54/132 of 17 December 1999, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, annexed to that resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session, including on the Action Plan and the resolution. The present document has been prepared in response to that request.

II. Goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

A. Goals and targets for the year 2003

1. Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors

3. In paragraph 11 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, Member States decided to devote particular attention to the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs. They called for the establishment or strengthening by the year 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors.

2. Adoption of legislation and programmes against money-laundering

4. In paragraph 15 of the Political Declaration, Member States undertook to make special efforts against the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking and, in that context, emphasized the importance of strengthening international, regional and subregional cooperation. In order to achieve that goal, they recommended that States that had not yet done so adopt by the year 2003 national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[1] as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the twentieth special session.

3. Promotion of cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities

5. In paragraph 16 of the Political Declaration, Member States undertook to promote multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities to deal with criminal organizations involved in drug offences and related criminal activities, in accordance with the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the twentieth special session. To that end, States were encouraged to review and, where appropriate, to strengthen by the year 2003 the implementation of those measures.

4. Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

6. In paragraph 17 of the Political Declaration, Member States recognized that demand reduction was an indispensable pillar in the global approach to countering the world drug problem. They committed themselves to introducing into their national programmes and strategies the provisions set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and to working closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

(UNDCP) to develop action-oriented strategies to assist in the implementation of the Declaration. They established the year 2003 as a target date for new or enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities.

B. Goals and targets for the year 2008

1. Measures for the control of precursors

7. In paragraph 14 of the Political Declaration, Member States decided to devote particular attention to the measures for the control of precursors adopted at the twentieth special session, and to establish the year 2008 as a target date for States, with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors.

2. Achievement of significant and measurable results in demand reduction

8. In paragraph 17 of the Political Declaration, Member States committed themselves to achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by the year 2008.

3. Eradication of illicit drug crops through alternative development

9. In paragraph 18 of the Political Declaration, Member States reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to the elimination of illicit narcotic crops in line with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted at the twentieth special session. They stressed the special importance of cooperation in alternative development, including the better integration of the most vulnerable sectors involved in the illicit drug market into legal and viable economic activities. They also emphasized the need for eradication programmes and law enforcement measures to counter illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking, paying special attention to the protection of the environment, and, in that regard, strongly supported the work of UNDCP in the field of alternative development. In paragraph 19, Member States welcomed the global approach by UNDCP to the elimination of illicit crops and committed themselves to working closely with UNDCP to develop strategies with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy by the year 2008.

III. Role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and follow-up action

10. In paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, all States were called upon to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets established for the years 2003 and 2008. The Commission was requested to analyse the reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

11. In its resolution 54/132, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of UNDCP, to continue to work expeditiously on the elaboration of guidelines to facilitate harmonized reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex) and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 as set out in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session.

12. At its reconvened forty-second session, held from 30 November to 1 December 1999, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 43/11, entitled "Guidelines for reporting on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", in which it adopted a questionnaire, annexed to that resolution, that included the information required for reporting on the action plans and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session. Member States were requested to transmit to the Executive Director of UNDCP, by 30 June 2000, their replies to the questionnaire. On the basis of those replies, the Executive Director would prepare for submission to the Commission a single report that should also cover the difficulties encountered in meeting the objectives and targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session. At its forty-fourth regular session, to be held from 26 to 29 March 2001, the Commission will analyse the biennial report of the Executive Director and present its recommendations on, *inter alia*, national, regional and

systems for monitoring the drug abuse problem, including a core set of regionally and internationally recognized indicators (objective 4).

15. Secondly, the Action Plan foresees a role for UNDCP and other relevant international and regional organizations with respect to best practice. A number of areas have been identified in which UNDCP is asked to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies. The areas include the following: how to provide prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation services to offenders who misuse drugs (objective 10); how to undertake appropriately targeted public information campaigns (objective 11); how to develop effective and culturally appropriate information campaigns to help drug abusers and inform them about available services (objective 12); how to develop training strategies for social mediators (objective 13); and how to design and implement training of human resources in demand reduction (objective 14). Sharing of information on best strategies is also called for in more general areas, such as the development of programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in a wide variety of health and social contexts (objective 6) and the promotion of networking (objective 7).

16. In addition to the two principal tasks — to provide guidance and assistance to those requesting it and to facilitate the sharing of best strategies — the Action Plan also highlights the advocacy role of UNDCP with regard to research, suggesting that the development of methodologies for assessing the cost and consequences of drug abuse and for undertaking cost-benefit analysis should be promoted (objective 4). UNDCP and other relevant international and regional organizations should also encourage research into a wide range of issues related to drug demand reduction (objective 5). A similar advocacy role is to be undertaken in the development of guidelines for demand reduction programmes and services so as to enhance their quality and relevance (objective 8) and in promoting the participation of target groups in the design of projects (objective 9).

17. Finally, the Action Plan sets a number of specific additional tasks for UNDCP and other relevant international and regional organizations. Those tasks include action to facilitate the following: the creation of an international youth network for the sharing of information and mutual learning (objective 9); and the development of guidelines on curricula and training

programmes and the intercountry exchange of experts for training purposes (objective 14). Another specific task is to establish coordination mechanisms for identification, sharing and expansion of best practices (objective 15) and to participate in the creation of an international mechanism by facilitating networking and linkages between databases (objective 16).

18. One of the principal tasks of UNDCP in supporting implementation of the Action Plan is to provide guidance and assistance to Member States, at their request. The main task is to make sure that countries have programmes that are comprehensive and guided by the principles of the Declaration. As the Action Plan covers all areas of demand reduction, although not with the same level of detail in all areas, only some examples of such assistance are given in the present report. The examples relate to the objectives of the Action Plan that specifically call for UNDCP to provide assistance and guidance to individual countries. Some examples of assistance required by the Action Plan and of activities related mainly to facilitating the sharing of experiences are discussed below.

19. Objective 2 (securing a long-term commitment to the implementation of a national strategy for reducing illicit demand and ensuring full coordination and participation of the relevant authorities and sectors of society) and objective 3 (developing and implementing, by the year 2003, national strategies fully incorporating the guiding principles set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction) are broad objectives for the achievement of which UNDCP has been providing assistance for some time. That includes assistance in the establishment of effective mechanisms for drug control and in the coordination of various sectors of society. At the same time, assistance is being provided to States in drawing up comprehensive demand reduction strategies. In that process, the experience of UNDCP in designing master plans, in setting up drug control secretariats and national inter-agency committees in various countries has proved useful.

20. In fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to UNDCP under objective 4 of the Action Plan (assessing the causes and consequences of the misuse of substances and establishing a national system to monitor drug problems and trends), UNDCP has launched a programme to assist countries in the establishment of national systems for monitoring the drug abuse problem. The global programme for assessing the magnitude of drug abuse is aimed at building up the capacity of States to collect high-quality data on illicit drug demand, including data on the following: the annual prevalence of drug abuse among the general population; lifetime prevalence among youth; and the extent of problems related to drug abuse, such as addiction, injection practices, increased mortality and the risk of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and of other infections. The global programme consists of [illegible] regional projects, technically supported through a global project. It has been configured as a regional development initiative, designed to operate in partnership with national and regional epidemiology networks and with international organizations. The pace at which the assistance will be delivered is, however, contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary funds.

21. According to objective 4 of the Action Plan, advice and assistance for the establishment of national systems for monitoring the drug abuse problem should include regionally and internationally recognized core indicators. With a view to ensuring that data sets are compatible, the global programme for assessing the magnitude of drug abuse will seek consensus with other relevant organizations, such as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, on common sets of indicators, definitions and measures. To that end, in addition to ongoing regular consultations, a meeting was organized to seek consensus and build partnerships.

22. In addition to the provision of assistance within the framework of the global programme, UNDCP has published guidelines for the development and implementation of drug abuse rapid situation assessments and responses.[2] The guidelines, which are available in all official languages of the United Nations, have been field-tested in all regions of the world.

23. Apart from establishing the methodological framework for measuring drug abuse, UNDCP has provided assistance to countries and territories interested in carrying out research in that area. Rapid situation assessments have been planned or are being undertaken in various countries and areas (for example, in Croatia, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, as well as in the subregion of eastern Africa and in the territory under the Palestinian Authority). In other countries (such as in those that are parties to the memorandum of understanding signed by States of the Common Market of the Southern Cone), nationwide surveys to monitor drug abuse patterns and trends have been undertaken.

24. With regard to objective 6 (identifying and developing programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in a wide variety of health and social contexts), UNDCP advocates making demand reduction programmes sensitive to local needs and priorities. It is thus essential to ensure that the design of programmes takes place close to where they are to be implemented. To make the development of demand reduction responses less dependent on international experts in the long run, UNDCP plans to broaden its expert base for demand reduction activities. In a pilot exercise for a limited number of countries, advisory panels of local experts will be created to support the provision of technical assistance by the UNDCP field offices. Experts, practitioners and academics in the field of epidemiology, prevention and treatment and rehabilitation will be invited to serve on the panels in their personal capacity. If the pilot exercise proves successful, the establishment of local advisory panels will be extended to more countries.

25. UNDCP has a long tradition of working with other agencies of the United Nations to insert drug demand reduction activities into broader social programmes and the promotion of health at the country level. The Subcommittee on Drug Control of the Administrative Committee on Coordination has continued its work on the development of action plans in selected countries to provide a basis for coordinated inter-agency support to national implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The countries targeted include Afghanistan, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. In addition, UNDCP has ensured that drug issues will be considered within the context of the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

26. Various new inter-agency initiatives were undertaken as a follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Community-level demand reduction projects were initiated in India in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other United Nations agencies. In Nicaragua, UNDCP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) started a needs assessment study to improve the delivery of drug abuse prevention programmes to children. In Bolivia, a programme for the promotion of health and for drug abuse preventive education in schools was initiated by UNDCP, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

27. The HIV epidemic has forced various sectors of society to cooperate closely in preventing the spread of the virus. In an increasing number of countries, injecting drug abuse is a major mode of transmission for HIV infection. In 1999, UNDCP joined the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) as its seventh co-sponsor. Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, UNFPA, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, UNDCP is ensuring that the prevention of HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) goes hand in hand with the prevention and treatment of drug abuse. Brazil and Viet Nam are examples of countries in which UNDCP is involved in successful comprehensive programmes for the prevention of HIV infection linked to drug abuse. Determined investments in comprehensive demand reduction programmes are required in some countries of eastern Europe and in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and some States of central Asia, where there is a potentially explosive situation with regard to the transmission of infections, including HIV infection, by drug injecting.

28. With regard to objective 14 (training in demand reduction for governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations etc.), UNDCP initiated various regional programmes, for example, for parties to the memorandum of understanding signed by States of Central America and to the memoranda of understanding signed by States of the Common Market of the Southern Cone. Also, the UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse has launched activities in eastern Europe, south-east Asia and southern Africa for the mobilization of all important actors in community life to prevent substance abuse among young people. The Global

Initiative includes training in local assessments, prevention approaches and self-evaluation. The activities will also promote networking at the national and regional level. Yet another example of UNDCP support for training is a regional project in the Baltic States to develop school curricula and educational materials as well as training of future teachers.

29. Both the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction highlight the importance of investing in and working with youth. Drug abuse prevention activities directed at young people are common in many countries, but such activities need strengthening with regard to both the participation of young people and the relevance of various responses to new trends in drug taking.

30. On the basis of information provided by Governments, it can be concluded that more needs to be done to reach out to the marginalized and vulnerable youth for whom drug abuse is a coping strategy. At the same time, it seems equally critical to reach out to those socially integrated young people, particularly in developed countries, for whom drug taking is seen as a lifestyle issue. While drug taking has been part of particular intellectual and artistic subcultures in the western world since the late nineteenth century, it now appears to be growing into a much more widespread cultural phenomenon, at least in some developed countries where more and more young people are exposed to a culture that appears to be more tolerant towards the use of drugs. New ways of reaching out to those young people for whom drug use is part of a particular lifestyle must therefore be developed, with input from the young people themselves.

31. Meeting the basic needs and protecting the rights of particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people are obviously very different from addressing the abuse of drugs as a cultural issue. In both cases, however, it is vital to involve the young people in the development of programmes and activities. In recent years, UNDCP and UNICEF, together with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, have been supporting efforts by States to better meet the needs and protect the rights of particularly disadvantaged adolescents. In that process, it has been important to facilitate the participation of the adolescents concerned. Key elements for programme guidance, based on lessons learned and country examples, will be identified with regard to situation assessment and analysis, development of strategies for meeting the needs and protecting the rights of adolescents in crisis and promotion of their participation in the process. A collection of examples of best practice will be published in due course.

32. On the basis of experience gained in organizing the Youth Vision Jeunesse, Drug Abuse Prevention Forum, for youth and by youth, held in Banff, Canada, in April 1998, UNDCP will publish a handbook for drug abuse prevention among youth. The handbook is being developed with input from the various groups, representing 24 countries around the world, that participated in the Banff event. The same groups form the nexus of a global youth network for drug abuse prevention. UNDCP is facilitating the establishment of the network by providing communication tools and training opportunities, with the ultimate aim of empowering youth to develop innovative responses to the challenges that they face and to take action in their own communities. The network will also serve to identify best practices and to share the experiences of different countries and regions. Such activities of UNDCP respond to the need to facilitate the creation of an international network promoting regular contact among youth involved in demand reduction activities and allowing them to stay informed and learn from each other (objective 9).

33. The Action Plan not only invites UNDCP to provide assistance to countries requesting it, but also entails an important role for UNDCP and other relevant international and regional organizations with respect to best practices. As mentioned in paragraph 15 above, a number of areas have been identified in which UNDCP is asked to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

34. Most of the evaluations of prevention and treatment programmes have been carried out in developed countries. While the results of such evaluations may seldom be of direct relevance to developing countries, they nevertheless contain valuable conclusions regarding what works and in which circumstances. Much work remains to be done, however, to identify examples of best strategies that are relevant also to countries with limited financial resources and different sociocultural conditions.

35. The guidelines contained in the publication entitled *Drug Abuse Rapid Situation Assessments and Responses*[3] are based on work done by UNDCP to identify best practices and best strategies. The handbook for drug abuse prevention among youth will be another example of how UNDCP can contribute to the sharing of best strategies. A further publication being prepared, described in paragraph 31 above, will deal with the key elements for programme guidance; it will be published jointly with UNICEF and other United Nations organizations.

36. UNDCP has also started work on best strategies for providing prevention, education, treatment or rehabilitation services to offenders who misuse drugs (objective 10). An expert working group on improving the intersectoral impact in casework involving drug abuse offenders met in Vienna from 6 to 10 December 1999. The working group, after reviewing the collective experience and impact of those treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug-abusing offenders which involved an active role for the courts, identified core factors underlying the effectiveness of different initiatives. Practical guidelines for best strategies, based on the outcome of the meeting, were published in early 2000. In addition, under another project, guidelines will be developed for community-based prevention, utilizing the experience of UNDCP in initiating such activities in various sociocultural settings in developing countries (objective 6).

V. Elimination of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis through alternative development

37. As a direct follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E), UNDCP launched a four-year global programme for alternative development to develop and systematize lessons learned and best practices arising from the wide range of alternative development projects carried out by UNDCP around the world and to improve the analysis and dissemination of project results. A technical repository of that nature will in future prove invaluable to Governments and UNDCP in the design of new programmes and projects, the identification of project indicators and benchmarks and the development of training programmes, evaluation missions and publicity material for substantive advocacy and fund-raising.

38. In April 1999, the global programme started to monitor and track the progress made in areas such as gender mainstreaming in rural development; credit schemes in illicit crop areas; development of agro-industries; income diversification; the role of community organizations; and sound project monitoring and management at the local and national levels. From October 1998 to January 2000, an assessment of gender mainstreaming activities in alternative development was carried out. The results of the assessment are contained in a UNDCP document entitled "Guidelines on best practices for gender mainstreaming in alternative development". The guidelines constitute a practical review of existing knowledge and experiences concerning the gender situation in geographical areas affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops. Another major development was the setting up of an illicit crop monitoring programme in response to the Action Plan and to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 42/3, entitled "Monitoring and verification of illicit cultivation".

39. The work of the illicit crop monitoring programme is currently focused on the six countries in which the bulk of world illicit crop cultivation occurs, namely, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru. Under a partnership arrangement with the European Space Agency, UNDCP carried out several assessment and programming missions from June to October 1999 in the six priority countries to identify their technical assistance needs for the establishment of national monitoring mechanisms. UNDCP also elaborated, with relevant partners, a common methodology related to the monitoring of illicit crops, bringing into play a combination of applied technologies, such as satellite imagery, ground surveys and aerial surveys. The results of the missions conducted in the six priority countries and the implementation of the common methodology are under constant review by a panel of internationally recognized experts in the field of remote sensing and monitoring. The first panel of experts met in Vienna in December 1999.

40. UNDCP has drawn up six national projects, one for each priority country. Some of the projects are under way, while others are subject to the availability

of funding. The illicit crop monitoring programme has supported several new initiatives, including the following: a national ground survey in Afghanistan; a national survey in Colombia using satellite imagery; and a national ground survey in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, including preparatory work for remote sensing. Technical advice was offered to Bolivia on the development of a national system for monitoring illicit crop cultivation in the Chapare and Yungas regions. In Peru, advice was provided to complement the existing national aerial survey capacities with satellite images. In Myanmar, preparatory work started on the use of satellite imagery in the area covered by the UNDCP alternative development project, as a first step towards eventual national coverage.

41. The national systems being promoted are expected to contribute significantly to the establishment and reinforcement of an international network for the monitoring of illicit crops, in line with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 42/3. Equally important, the systems will become an essential tool for planning, monitoring and measuring the results of alternative development projects funded by Governments, UNDCP and other donors.

42. In Pakistan, UNDCP is continuing its alternative development activities in the Dir district of the North-West Frontier Province. Following successful eradication efforts by the Government of Pakistan, only 0.1 hectares of opium poppy were harvested in the Dir district in 1999. Accordingly, the drug control objective of the second phase of the UNDCP Dir district development project, under way since 1994, has been almost met one full year prior to the completion of that phase. In order to sustain the elimination of the opium poppy crop, planning has begun for a consolidation programme, to involve bilateral and multilateral assistance, that will continue for a period of 5-10 years.

43. In Afghanistan, the UNDCP alternative development pilot project continues to be implemented in four target districts of Nangarhar and Qandahar provinces. The activities being carried out under the project are aimed at creating alternative sources of livelihood, increasing on- and off-farm income opportunities and improving social services and community amenities. Through participatory planning, the beneficiaries in the target districts are given the opportunity to identify and prioritize their needs with a view to having them included in the package of development assistance. The project was incorporated into an integrated drug control programme for Afghanistan that was developed in 1999. The programme will strengthen the capacity of UNDCP to work within the common programming approach for Afghanistan, while continuing the ongoing pilot projects. By providing guidance to agencies that work in areas where opium poppy is grown, UNDCP will be in a position to introduce the objective of drug control into broader development programmes.

44. In Myanmar, the inception phase of a five-year alternative development project in the southern Wa region, costed at $15.5 million, was under full implementation in 1999. The project is targeting a major opium-producing area of the Wa region near the border with China, covering about 200,000 hectares and involving 260 villages and 6,250 households. The objective of the project is to reduce illicit cultivation of opium poppy by 80 per cent using a sustainable community-level approach for the reduction and eventual elimination of the opium-based economy. A key component of the project is the development of a system to assess the amount of opium produced in the Wa region in order to monitor the progress of the project and ensure that its activities achieve the desired results. In 1999, baseline ground and aerial surveys for opium poppy cultivation were completed. UNDCP also provided support to opium eradication programmes initiated by local communities in the northern Wa and Kokang regions, providing irrigation systems, high-yielding rice varieties and improved access to roads.

45. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, new alternative development projects targeting priority areas in the provinces of Bokeo, Houa Phan, Oudomxai and Xieng Khoang started operating in 1999, with a total budget of $7.6 million. Activities are implemented in close cooperation with other international bodies, such as UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Asian Development Bank. In May 1999, the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and UNDCP agreed to launch a six-year programme to eliminate opium poppy cultivation. The programme, jointly developed by UNDCP and the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, will target 15 priority districts in eight northern provinces. The multisectoral approach will require $80 million for new drug control projects and for ongoing and new projects with

complementary objectives in the field of poverty alleviation. Estimated programme costs include $60 million for alternative development, 25 per cent of which is earmarked for roadworks supported by the Government in the form of soft loans. UNDCP has begun project formulation under the programme, starting with the highest priority districts in Phongsali province.

46. In Viet Nam, during the period under review, UNDCP supported the $4 million Ky Son alternative development pilot project (first phase) in the province of Nghe An, bordering the Lao People's Democratic Republic and covering 202,500 hectares, with a target population of 38,000. The project is designed to serve as a model to be replicated in, and adapted to, other areas under opium poppy cultivation. The strict government enforcement of the ban on opium poppy cultivation has successfully reduced illicit poppy cultivation by more than 90 per cent in the project area, which, at the start of the project, produced more opium than any other district in the country. The village-based initiatives and activities under the project have resulted in improved socio-economic conditions and the introduction of various alternative income-generating activities for villagers. However, new income-generating activities are not yet fully sustainable. Accordingly, UNDCP assisted in the formulation of the second phase of the project to start in 2000, in line with the recommendations of the project evaluation.

47. During September and October 1998, the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru prepared three individual business plans for the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development. The three business plans comprise 18 projects at an aggregate cost of $170.2 million, including three projects in Bolivia ($64.2 million), seven projects in Colombia ($60 million) and eight projects in Peru ($46 million). All of the projects are grounded in the national alternative development plans of the respective countries and are to be implemented during the period 1998-2003. Nearly $31 million has been raised so far for the business plans, enabling UNDCP to start 12 of the 18 projects. Fund-raising efforts are under way to identify donors for the remaining $139 million needed for the business plans to be fully implemented by 2003.

48. Since 1998, the budget of the agroforestry programme in Bolivia has increased from $3 million to $9.2 million, $1.2 million of which has been made possible by a cost-sharing contribution from the Government of Bolivia. Part of the new funding will be used to reduce illicit coca bush cultivation in the Yungas, a region where restricted coca bush cultivation for traditional purposes is permitted by Bolivian law but which is increasingly being used also for illicit cultivation. The agroforestry programme works directly with over 3,500 beneficiaries, organized as shareholders in forest management units, and supports the processing and marketing of forestry products, including timber and cash crops such as palm heart, oranges, passion fruit, rubber and bananas. Farmers are already earning $1,400 per year in regular income under the project. Equally important, the programme assists local and national authorities with the rehabilitation of soils previously degraded by coca bush cultivation and supports environmental protection legislation and the introduction of sound national park management practices and the promotion of ecotourism. An external and independent project evaluation carried out in June 1999 confirmed that the project approach has led to a reduction of 1,591 hectares of coca bush cultivation in the area.

49. A second business plan project started with a preparatory assistance phase to introduce vocational training and microenterprises for about 7,000 young people in the Chapare region of Bolivia. The project assesses the training needs and existing vocational training capacities as well as the absorption capacity of the labour market in areas affected by illicit cultivation of the coca bush. The third business plan project, started in September 1999, introduced an integrated system of national planning, management and monitoring for alternative development.

50. Under the Peruvian business plan, UNDCP commitments rose from $4.2 million in early 1999 to currently $7.6 million, covering four major areas in which the coca bush is grown. The three new projects in the Lower Huallaga, the Pichis-Palcazu valleys (known as the Selva Central) and the Inambari and Tambopata valleys (known as the Puno Selva) build substantially on the experience of the ongoing project in the Apurimac valley, in particular with regard to improvements in traditional crops such as coffee and cacao, and on business-oriented management practices for agro-industrial enterprises, including the production of palm oil and palm heart. In the Selva Central, UNDCP also supports improved cattle-breeding. Two

palm-oil plants and rural infrastructure, including feeder roads, were rehabilitated under the project.

51. For the first time, the Government of Peru contributed cost-sharing of $0.6 million to UNDCP projects. Project formulations were carried out for business plan projects in Palmapampa-Santa Rosa and in the Monzon-Tingo Maria area, and projects activities are ready to start subject to funding. Under two other business plan projects, UNDCP is upgrading the technical, managerial and fund-raising capacities of the national drug control commission (Comision de la Lucha contra el Consumo de Drogas (CONTRADROGAS)), as well as the capacity of the Government to undertake surveys for the monitoring of illicit crops.

52. In Colombia, UNDCP continued to assist the Office of the National Alternative Development Plan with the formulation of projects for seven regions earmarked for alternative development. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that the projects are integrated into the regional and municipal development plans. That process has governed seven projects to date. Despite prevailing violence in the PLANTE project areas, UNDCP continued to support agricultural extension services reaching 2,335 farm families in the departments of Bolivar, Caqueta, Cauca, Guaviare, Meta, Narifio and Putumayo. In the second half of 1999, a second business plan project, "Alternative development for Meta-Caqueta", started to provide assistance to farmers in the cultivation of legal crops and cattle-breeding. UNDCP also supported the Government in the formulation of four additional business plan projects worth $30 million for about 5,000 farm families in areas where coca bush and opium poppy are cultivated. The pace of work in Colombia is however directly dependent on progress made by the Government in addressing the armed conflict in the country.

53. In Colombia and Peru, UNDCP assists Governments with the establishment of national systems for monitoring illicit drug crops. In Peru, the first phase of the coca monitoring project is in full operation, the aim being to use a combined interpretation of air photographs, satellite images and ground surveys to produce detailed maps of 11 areas in which the coca bush is grown. The aerial survey has been concluded for six of the areas. In Colombia, the monitoring project started in September 1999. It is designed as a bridging project that prolongs the Colombian pilot phase of a first satellite survey in Guaviare and parts of Vaupes and Vichada, and that will be linked to a future land-use mapping project to be funded by the European Commission. Both the Colombian and Peruvian projects feed into the UNDCP integrated crop monitoring programme.

VI. Measures to promote judicial cooperation

54. The General Assembly, at its twentieth special session (resolutions S-20/4 A to E), called on States to implement fully the 1988 Convention and to promote judicial cooperation, complementing and extending the cooperation envisaged in that Convention. States were encouraged to review and, where appropriate, to strengthen by the year 2003 the implementation of the measures to promote judicial cooperation (Assembly resolution S-20/4 C), which included extradition, mutual legal assistance and the transfer of proceedings.

55. UNDCP, through its legal advisory programme, assisted Governments in the adoption and implementation of legislation to give effect to the provisions of the international drug control treaties, particularly the provisions of the 1988 Convention on mutual legal assistance, extradition, transfer of proceedings, and related treaty provisions. UNDCP is assisting States in implementing the recommendations that call upon States to exchange information on their laws, practices and procedures between their judicial and law enforcement authorities. Training and technical cooperation for judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement personnel supported or conducted by UNDCP have enhanced the expertise and capacity of Governments, resulting in the arrest, prosecution and conviction of drug traffickers.

VII. Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors

56. In the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (resolution S-20/4 A), the General Assembly called for the establishment or strengthening by the year 2003 of national legislation

VIII. Control of precursors

57. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly provided an effective framework for international cooperation in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals from legitimate sources to illicit drug production. Precursor control served as an effective tool in combating the manufacture of illicit drugs. Several Governments introduced pre-export notifications for potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride, the essential chemicals for the illicit manufacture of cocaine and heroin. In so doing, they achieved one of the most ambitious objectives set at the special session with regard to precursor control. A new initiative called "Operation Purple" was undertaken in 2000 by 25 Governments and 3 international bodies to deny illicit traffickers access to potassium permanganate. Almost 8,000 tons of potassium permanganate were tracked and 32 shipments totalling 2,200 tons were stopped at the source or seized by the importing country. The success of the operation was attributed to the high degree of cooperation among the law enforcement agencies, licensing authorities and chemical industries of the countries and international bodies participating in the worldwide initiative.

IX. Countering money-laundering

58. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex), Governments committed themselves to adopt, by the year 2003, national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention, as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the twentieth special session. Through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, UNDCP offers assistance to States that have not yet adopted the required legislative provisions and implementation measures. Assistance in the form of training is provided to banking, law enforcement and judicial authorities in order to enhance the capacity of States to implement more effectively domestic legislation against money-laundering. In 1999, awareness-raising and training workshops on the prevention of money-laundering and on financial investigations were held in the following cities: Abu Dhabi, Bratislava, Slovakia, Bogotá, Damascus, Moscow, Santo Domingo, Tehran, Warsaw and Zagreb. In cooperation with the UNDCP legal advisory programme, money-laundering issues were covered in training workshops in the field of justice.

59. To meet the objectives set out in the Political Declaration, the United Nations Offshore Forum was launched. At a conference for jurisdictions providing offshore financial services held in the Cayman Islands, in March 2000, minimum standards for the prevention of money-laundering were established. Such jurisdictions have been invited to enter into a formal commitment by 30 September 2000 to meet the minimum standards. Assistance will be provided to those jurisdictions in strengthening their capacity to counter money-laundering.

X. United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a catalyst for action by Member States and the United Nations system

60. The report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNDCP in 1999 (E/CN.7/2000/9) reflected the portfolio of technical assistance programmes undertaken by UNDCP to provide direct support to Governments in implementing the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. UNDCP relies on its global network of field offices, which have enhanced its capacity to serve as a catalyst for action in the area of drug control.

61. During 1999, UNDCP continued to promote inter-agency cooperation, especially at the field level, in an effort to mobilize United Nations entities to include drug control issues in their programmes of work and to support Governments in implementing the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. UNDCP has actively participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to ensure that drug control is included as a national priority. Joint activities are currently being undertaken with the involvement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, mainly in the field of demand reduction and the eradication of illicit drug crops as a part of alternative development programmes.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2] *Drug Abuse Rapid Situation Assessments and Responses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.12).

[3] Ibid.